



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In March, Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 230 jobs from February 2003. A decrease of 170 jobs was recorded over the year since March 2002. *Educational & Health Services* and *Government Administration* were the only industries to show job increases since February 2003. A closer look at these industries reveals that *Health Services* continues to grow because people are staying closer to home for health care. In the past, local residents have used Spokane hospitals and clinics for some health care needs. As local hospitals and clinics add services they are capturing more of the market. Year-over-year *Health Services* has increased more than any other Seaport industry. In addition to *Health Services*, *Government Administration* showed more jobs in March compared to February. The increase in this industry occurred as the public sector hired employees for road and construction work. In year-over-year comparisons, job decreases occurred in almost all industries, except *Manufacturing*, which posted a significant increase year-over-year. An analysis of this industry shows only one sector in *Manufacturing* has increased—*Other Manufacturing*—which has been creating jobs mostly in the manufacture of ammunition and water craft. This sector is outside of the traditional *Wood Products*, *Paper Products*, and *Food Processing* sectors, and is expected to increase in the future.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Population

The population in North Central Idaho decreased .6 percent between 2000 and 2002, according to recently released data by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Population for the state increased by 3.2 percent from 2000 to 2002, as shown in Seaport Table 2. Four of the five counties in North Central Idaho (Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis, and Nez Perce), lost ground when compared to population growth in the other 39 counties of Idaho. Clearwater County lost the most population in the region, decreasing by

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	March 2003*	Feb 2003	March 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	36,370	36,610	34,760	-0.7	4.6
Unemployment	1,430	1,400	1,470	2.1	-2.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.2		
Total Employment	34,940	35,210	33,290	-0.8	5.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	36,520	36,730	34,990	-0.6	4.4
Unemployment	1,710	1,820	1,760	-6.0	-2.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	5.0	5.0		
Total Employment	34,810	34,910	33,230	-0.3	4.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,530	26,760	26,700	-0.9	-0.6
Goods-Producing Industries	4,320	4,390	4,200	-1.6	2.9
Natural Resources & Mining	220	220	190	0.0	15.8
Construction	920	920	900	0.0	2.2
Manufacturing	3,180	3,250	3,110	-2.2	2.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	560	560	560	0.0	0.0
Food Manufacturing	80	90	80	-11.1	0.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,210	1,210	1,200	0.0	0.8
Other Manufacturing	1,330	1,390	1,270	-4.3	4.7
Service-Producing Industries	22,210	22,370	22,500	-0.7	-1.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,740	5,890	5,820	-2.5	-1.4
Wholesale Trade	620	620	600	0.0	3.3
Retail Trade	3,900	3,980	3,940	-2.0	-1.0
Utilities	80	80	90	0.0	-11.1
Transportation & Warehousing	1,140	1,210	1,190	-5.8	-4.2
Information	360	360	370	0.0	-2.7
Financial Activities	1,770	1,810	1,790	-2.2	-1.1
Professional & Business Services	1,490	1,530	1,540	-2.6	-3.2
Education & Health Services	3,860	3,800	3,980	1.6	-3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2,550	2,570	2,650	-0.8	-3.8
Other Services	1,190	1,190	1,180	0.0	0.8
Government Education	2,480	2,480	2,500	0.0	-0.8
Government Administration	1,880	1,850	1,840	1.6	2.2
Government Tribes	890	890	830	0.0	7.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Seaport Table 2: Population Estimates 2000-2002

	Population 2000	Population 2001	Population 2002	Percent Change		
				2001- 2002	2000- 2001	2000- 2002
United States	282,224,348	285,317,559	288,368,698	1.1	1.1	2.2
Idaho	1,299,721	1,320,585	1,341,131	1.6	1.6	3.2
Clearwater County	8,892	8,608	8,446	-1.9	-3.2	-5.0
Idaho County	15,469	15,395	15,308	-0.6	-0.5	-1.0
Latah County	34,887	35,154	35,218	0.2	0.8	0.9
Lewis County	3,746	3,626	3,721	2.6	-3.2	-0.7
Nez Perce County	37,380	37,019	37,106	0.2	-1.0	-0.7
Asotin (Wa.)	20,453	20,446	20,559	0.6	0.0	0.5

SOURCE: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 17, 2003

5.0 percent from 2000 to 2002. The region's economic engine, Nez Perce County, decreased in population by 0.7 percent, far below increases generated in other Idaho economic engines, such as Canyon County (10.3 percent increase), or in Ada County (6.2 percent increase). Latah County has the distinction of being the fastest growing county in North Central Idaho, though the increase was only 0.9 percent over two years. High unemployment, sawmill closures, and U.S. Forest Service cutbacks produced weak population growth in Clearwater, Lewis, and Idaho Counties. By far, North Central Idaho as a whole has not participated in the strong population growth experienced by other regions in the state. See FYI Table 7 on page 28 for population changes of all Idaho counties.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Orofino's new business park building is completely leased even before the building is finished. The \$2 million building is being constructed with state and federal money, and is expected to be finished July 1. The first company to sign a lease, Architectural Signs and Engraving Inc. (ASE), specializes in producing American With Disabilities Act signs and other specialty signs. The locally owned company has customers throughout the United States. ASE and the City of Orofino have been working together the past two years in an effort to meet ASE's expansion needs. The company will occupy half of the 30,000-square-foot building. The second tenant, Plumber One, Inc., has signed a lease for the other half of the building. The company produces earthquake safety valves that cut off the flow of natural gas and propane to homes and businesses during unexpected ground movements that exceed 5.2 on the Richter scale. The factory in Orofino will also be making custom safety valves for commercial use on tanks holding ammonia, chlorine, and other hazardous gases. The company expects to hire 100 to 150 employees. Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne has committed \$300,000 in Idaho Workforce Development Training Funds to train local workers for Plumber One, Inc. The new tenants are a welcome addition to Clearwater County, which has been hit hard by the downturn in the resource economy. Potlatch Corp. closed a plywood mill in Weippe in the county in 2000, forcing about 200 people out of work. Since then the county's unemployment rate has been among the highest in the state. Starting wages for the jobs at Plumber One will be \$7.00 an hour, plus medical and dental benefits.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has approved a spring Chinook salmon season on the upper Clearwater River. The approved season is expected to attract people from all over to fish for the

ocean-going salmon, and could bring a significant amount of money to Kooskia and Kamiah merchants. The Idaho Fish and Game Department approval was based on the strength of the salmon run, which is one of the best in years. Anglers will be able to keep two hatchery salmon per day and 10 for the entire season. According to a report by the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the 2002 salmon season was worth \$90 million to the Idaho economy, which resulted in more than \$3 million in spending in Kooskia. The town of Riggins benefited the most with \$10.1 million in direct spending by individuals because of fishing.

Latah County

- Internationally renowned architect Cesar Pelli has revealed his initial vision of the new Lionel Hampton Center Performance and Education Facility at the University of Idaho (UI) campus. "This has been a particularly enjoyable project," said Pelli, an Argentinean-born architect who counts among his award-winning projects the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles and the United States Embassy in Tokyo. Designs are still in the preliminary stage, Pelli said, but the final building is expected to be a showpiece and tribute to a distinctly American style of music. "If this jazz center really takes hold, in 20 years they won't just think of Chicago and New York when they think of jazz, they will think of Moscow," Pelli said. And with just about \$4 million in the center account, university fundraisers are banking on that excitement to drum up additional donations. The Lionel Hampton Center, which includes the Lionel Hampton School of Music, the Jazz Festival, the International Jazz Collections, and the education and performance facility, needs to raise \$60 million in state, federal, and private funds. About \$40 million will be used for the building. The remaining money will be used for building maintenance and care for the 110,000 pieces of memorabilia in the jazz collections. The UI has raised \$1 million in seed money from a U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant, \$1.4 million in federal funding earmarked for the jazz archive, and about \$2.1 million in private donations. According to officials the UI is still on track to meet its goal of completing the building by 2006.

Nez Perce County

- A medical building could become the first tenant of the Port of Lewiston's business and technology park. The port is negotiating with doctors who have not yet been identified. The 10,000-square-foot, single-story surgical center would be built on a 1.5-acre site with 51 parking spaces near the Royal Plaza Retirement and Care Center on Juniper Drive. It may

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- The Butcher Block Meat Company in Pocatello has expanded. The meat company, which provides meat to several area restaurants and is a vendor for many food services, now features a deli at its South Main location. The business employs eight people.

Bingham County

- AutoZone Auto Parts opened in Blackfoot in February. The store is located at 100 North Meridian and employs six workers.
- A new exercise center, Curves for Women, has opened at the Riverside Plaza in Blackfoot. The center provides hydraulic resistance exercise equipment and circuit exercise system designed specifically for women.
- Venustas Villa, a new day spa, opened in Blackfoot. The spa offers hairstyling and massage therapy. The business is located at Lake View Plaza, Suite 4.

Caribou County

- All American Video has opened in the former City Drug Store on Main Street in Soda Springs. The 3,800-square-foot store has been completely remodeled and carries approximately 8,000 videos,

DVDs, and games. The store employs approximately 12 people.

Franklin County

- The Greater Preston Area Chamber of Commerce has changed locations. The new office is located at 49 North State Street in Preston. The new office also includes a conference room for conducting chamber meetings.
- The Preston O.P. Skaggs store, which opened in 1927, closed in February 2002. The store's closure eliminated more than 40 jobs.

Power County

- Harms Memorial Hospital completed construction of its new physical therapy building, adjacent to the hospital. The new facility provides space for improved physical therapy treatments including musculoskeletal, neurological, geriatric, wound care, and others. The physical therapy department employs three workers.

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open as early as December. Port officials had hoped that a massive office building that Regence Blue Shield has committed to construct would be the business and technology park's anchor tenant, with completion scheduled for 2005. At 55,000-square feet, the office will be one of the largest in Lewiston. It will occupy about 10 acres or one-fifth of the business and technology park.

- According to a visitor's survey, an estimated 50,000 people who have crossed Lolo Pass during the last year say they're on the trail of Lewis and Clark. Visitors at two Montana sites have been asked if they are in the region because of the bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery. The positive replies are not the millions some have predicted for the next three years, but they do indicate people are coming. In preparation, the Nez Perce County Commissioners have approved an agreement with the Clearwater

Economic Development Association to administer a \$120,000 grant that will assist with emergency services during the bicentennial. The cities of Lapwai and Culdesac will receive about \$16,000 and \$8,000, respectively, for their quick response units. Both the sheriff's air and mounted posse will receive money for equipment, including snowmobiles and ATVs. Additional enhancements will be made to communications improved with previous year's grants. Five Idaho counties and three in Montana are working together to respond to emergencies, particularly along the Lolo Motorway and U.S. Highway 12.

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